



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DPNR ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION IN
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT TRAINING**

In a significant milestone for water conservation initiatives, Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources is proud to announce that the dedicated team of Conservation Officers from the division of Environmental Enforcement have successfully completed rigorous certification in Personal Watercraft Training. This achievement underscores the divisions' unwavering commitment to the protection and preservation of the Virgin Islands' precious water ecosystems.

"With the rapid growth in water-based recreational activities and the increasing need for effective conservation measures, it has become imperative for our officers to possess specialized skills in the operation and management of personal watercraft," said Commissioner Oriol. "This certification equips them with the necessary expertise to navigate these unique environments while ensuring the sustainable use of our waters," Commissioner Oriol continued.

The comprehensive training program covered a wide range of topics, including safety protocols, environmental stewardship, and responsible boating practices. Conservation Officers underwent intensive practical sessions and theoretical coursework to develop their proficiency in handling personal watercraft while adhering to the highest standards of conservation ethics.

"By acquiring this certification, our Conservation Officers are better equipped to patrol waterways, enforce regulations, educate the public, and respond swiftly to emergencies. As we celebrate this achievement, we extend our gratitude to all those involved in the training program, including our officers, trainers, and partner organizations. Their collaborative efforts have empowered our team to make a lasting impact on water conservation efforts in the Virgin Islands," concluded Environmental Enforcement Division Director Howard Forbes, Sr.